

Providence Reformed Baptist Church - Sunday, March 7, 2021

The Supreme Love of God – Matthew 17:5

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- I. The Nature of God's Love
 - A. Describing God's Love
 - 1. Supreme
 - 2. Magnificent
 - 3. Amazing
 - 4. Eternal
 - 5. Great
 - B. Three Categories of God's Love
 - 1. The common love of God - (unlimited, unconditional, general)
 - a. This is God's love that extends to humanity and all his creation, love by common grace
 - 1) Provides for our nourishment on the face of the earth (Gen. 1:29)
 - 2) Love his enemies
 - 3) sun and rain on the good and evil
 - 4) giver and protector of life (Matt 5:44-46, Acts 14:17)
 - b. Love through compassion and goodness
 - 1) Takes no pleasure in the sinners death (Ezek. 18:32)
 - 2) Longsuffering to the wicked (Rom. 2:4)
 - 3) Showing pity to the unrepentant (Matt. 23:37)
 - c. By the proclamation of the gospel
 - 1) Call to repentance
 - 2) Warn of judgement
 - 3) Promise everlasting life (Mark 1:15, John 3:16, John 3:18, John 5:24)
 - 2. The great and especial love of God
 - a. Savior of all men (1 Tim. 4:10 a)
 - b. Especially of those who believe (1 Tim. 4:10b)
 - 1) Give his life as a ransom for his own (Mark 10:45)
 - 2) Promise eternal life (John 3:16)
 - 3) Promise of glory (1 Cor. 3:18)
 - 3. The intra-trinitarian love of God - why God especially loves his people
 - a. God's love for himself/his own name (Primary)
 - b. Self-loving, self-glorifying, self-exalting – which He alone can be. Isaiah 48:9-13. Cf.: Isaiah 42:8.
 - c. Will not give his glory to another (V.42:8)
 - d. Shares equal divine glory with the son (John 17:1, John 17:5 – vivid proof of deity)
 - II. God's Love for His Son – 1 John 4:10
 - A. God is Love
 - 1. All throughout eternity before the world was created He has always been loving actively, by showing His supreme love to the son, who also loves Him in reciprocity also with the Holy spirit.
 - 2. The supreme love of the Father for the son in time of redemption
 - B. My Beloved Son – Matt. 17:5
 - 1. The Son of his affection
 - 2. The Son He cherishes

3. The unique Son of his love (Isaiah 42:1)
 4. How does God manifest His love to the Son ? – John 3:35
 - a. By giving him all things
 - b. Shows him all things
 - c. Power to give life
 - d. Authority to be believed
 - e. Power to resurrect
 - f. Authority to execute judgement
 - g. Power to forgive (see John 5: 19-27, Mark 9:6)
 - C. Equal with God – John 5:18
 1. The reciprocal love of the Son to the father
 2. There in all these verses we see the mutual, reciprocal, supreme, glad, the magnanimous kind of love between the father and the Son. The Holy Spirit in response descended and dwell on Him in full measure. - see John 14:31, 15:9, 17:4, 4:34; Phil 2:6-8.
 - D. In Whom I Am Well Pleased/Delight (Matt 17:5, Isaiah 42:1)
 1. As the Son of His bosom, the only Son, who obeyed him perfectly, even unto death, The father fully delights in Him. Ps 45:1-2
 2. Illustrations
 - a. The love of Jacob for Joseph
 - b. The love of Abraham for Isaac
 3. God the father delights in the preciousness of His Son. See Phil 2:8-11, Col 1:19-20, Col 1:13-17
 4. The preciousness of Christ the Son of God - Col 2:9 all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in him bodily, Heb 1:3 He is the perfect representation of God, He is the answer to Moses' request: Lord show me your glory, col 1: all things were created by him, through him and for him. HE IS EVERYTHING: He is the pearl of great price, the treasure hidden in the fields, the expression of the majesty of God, infinitely better than the angels, incomparably better than Moses, than David, than Solomon, than all the prophets, he is the spotless lamb of God, He is the precious stone, the rock of ages, the bright and morning star, the amen, the faithful and the true, our hope, our eternal glory, the one for whom we live and for whom we die, our righteousness, our only hope, the redeemer and lover of our souls, the elect of God, focal point of the love of God, in whom God the father delights eternally: JESUS CHRIST!
- III. God's Love for Those in His Son - Eph 1:3-12, Eph 2:4-10; Rom. 8:31-39
- A. He Did Not Spare His Own Son
 - B. Listen to Him – Deut. 18: 15-16 / Acts 3: 22-23
 - C. Outside of Christ we cannot know and experience the great, special and SALVIFIC LOVE of GOD.
- IV. Application
- A. Love the Lord Your God – Matt. 22:37; Matt. 10:37
 1. Love is a Command, not a Suggestion
 2. Testing Your Love (Jesus and Peter) – John 21:15-17
 3. Proving Your Love - Do you love Him more than these things? There is a lot of things we can do too much, a lot of things we can do to an extreme. That can include eating, drinking, sleeping, working, sports, leisure, marital pleasures, shopping... and the list goes on... but when it comes to devotion and love to God, you can never do these too much. Give all yourself to that purpose. The highest degree of holiness depends on how much you love the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - B. The Consequence of Not Loving Him – Anathema! – 1 Cor. 16:22